

and humbled that he has served the district I represent. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the heroic duty of Officer Zach Hudson.

IN HONOR OF THE ERICK J.
UMSTEAD MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sabrina Umstead Smith, and her husband Roosevelt Smith, for their work to provide resources and financial support for the families of chronically ill children by founding the non-profit organization, The Erick J. Umstead Memorial Foundation, Inc.

In 1988, Sabrina lost her first husband in an apartment fire while expecting a child. As a result of oxygen deprivation caused by the fire, the child was born with underdeveloped lungs and cerebral palsy. Tragically, just three years later her young son succumbed to these medical disabilities.

Sabrina knows the challenges of caring for a chronically ill child. Motivated by a desire to make a tangible difference in the lives of chronically ill children and their parents and caregivers, she founded the Erick J. Umstead Memorial Foundation.

The foundation provides numerous services, to the families of chronically ill children, students, and medical professionals. Caregivers Count provides grants to financially disadvantaged parents and caregivers. Future Health Care Leaders offers scholarships for undergraduates who intend to pursue providing care to chronically ill pediatric. The Assistive Technology Program awards grants to hospitals and pediatric facilities to purchase specialized equipment and devices that facilitate the developmental progress of chronically ill children. In addition to financial aid, the foundation also provides a resource center for parents on their website, and distributes donated pajamas for chronically ill children.

Mr. Speaker, Sabrina's endless dedication to chronically ill children and their families should not go unrecognized. I join all of South Jersey in thanking her for her efforts.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF
PASTOR EMERITUS LOCKS

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, the Reverend Sidney A. Locks, Jr., retired from the helm of Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church (CMBC) in Greenville, North Carolina as a legendary figure in the Greenville community. Under the directive of Pastor Emeritus Locks, CMBC honed its capacity for community outreach and effected "giving" as an inseparable hallmark of CMBC's congregation.

Pastor Locks was born the son of a preacher in Opelousas, Louisiana. Through his father's ministry he was called to spread the word of God to others. After earning a Master's in Divinity from the Interdenominational

Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta, Georgia, Pastor Locks embarked on a 30 year career in the ministry, preaching to congregants about the love and compassion of God.

Determined to reflect the same spirit of love and compassion regularly evoked in his sermons, Pastor Locks weaved those virtues into the fabric of Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church, where he began pastoring in 1989. Ten years later, Hurricane Floyd presented Locks and CMBC congregation with the opportunity to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to service. When Hurricane Floyd ravished North Carolina's shores—destroying homes and disrupting lives—CMBC gathered resources to feed, clothe, and provide refuge for the victims of the storm.

CMBC leadership during the storm's recovery efforts won the Pastor and the CMBC congregation many followers, helping to position the church as an epicenter for community work. Even today, community leaders recall being cared for by the church after surviving days without food. Others starkly remember the congregation's efforts to lift the spirits of the families who felt hopeless at that time.

Under Pastor Lock's leadership, Cornerstone secured 44 apartment units to convert into a senior living facility; built a Family Life Center; and founded numerous programs to assist members of the congregation and the community.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the extraordinary work of Pastor Sidney Locks, Jr., and ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring his commitment to God, to country, and to community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 388 I was absent due to personal reasons.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 4402

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I was disappointed that the House passed the National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2012 (H.R. 4402). Like many people, I am deeply concerned about our country's, and the world's, increasing dependence on unstable and unreliable Chinese mining practices to provide the "rare earth minerals" that our industries need. However, the legislation passed by the House waives almost all environmental laws for all types of hardrock mining, even though the mining of these materials can be extraordinarily dangerous and toxic. This incredibly broad waiver hurts communities, public lands, and the environment, and supports big, mining industries at the expense of the American taxpayer.

I had hoped that H.R. 4402 would serve as an expression of our commitment to make

sure the United States is properly supplied with these minerals that are essential for the economy and our national security. Instead, I am disappointed because my colleagues failed to tailor the legislation to specifically meet this need and included an overly broad definition of "rare earth minerals." This bill would have benefited from a clear definition of what the rare earth minerals are, which would have been achieved by an amendment offered by my colleague, Representative TONKO. Instead, the sweeping exemptions from environmental regulations have created a partisan issue where none existed before.

I sincerely hope that when this issue is revisited in the future, we are able to work in a bipartisan manner to strike a balance that allows us to acquire our necessary supplies in a way that is efficient, safe for our workers, and protects the environment.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5972) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chair, I regretfully rise in opposition to the FY13 Transportation Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill. I would like to extend my appreciation to Chairman LATHAM and Ranking Member OLVER for their hard work on this bill. They were forced to make difficult decisions due to the low allocation that the Ryan Budget provided. Regrettably, this violation of the Budget Control Act, which was agreed to last year, led to devastating cuts to the Housing and Urban Development housing assistance program.

At a time when so many Americans have lost their homes or are struggling to keep them, this bill falls far short of meeting our nation's housing needs.

This is especially true for those who have fallen on hard times and those who are the poorest and most vulnerable among us.

By systematically underfunding HUD's three major rental assistance programs: Housing Choice vouchers, Public Housing and Section 8 Project-based Rental Assistance this bill increases the chances of greater homelessness in our country especially for those already living in unstable housing conditions.

My home state is a perfect example of how the deep cuts to housing assistance in this bill will negatively impact those with the greatest housing needs.

California has an estimated shortage of 1.6 million affordable rental units and an average wait of 37 months for HUD-assisted housing.

Further reducing funding for affordable housing will only increase the number of extremely low income households who are living